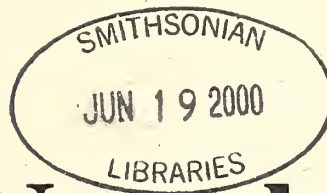


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CBC Newsletter

for members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., ornithological society of the Carolinas

Volume 46

May/June 2000

Number 3



Clyde Smith, CBC Editor Emeritus

End of an Era:

A Tribute to Clyde Smith

A big part of Saturday night's program at the CBC Spring Meeting involved saying thanks to Clyde Smith for his 22 years of service as editor of *The CBC Newsletter*. This newsletter, in fact, is the first edited by someone other than Clyde for all that time.

On behalf of the club, CBC President Len Pardue presented to Clyde a plaque expressing our appreciation and a framed copy of the original color art-work for the Yellow-breasted Chat that adorns the club's tee-shirts.

He also informed Clyde that the CBC Executive Committee had named him *editor emeritus* of The Newsletter, with all of the rights and privileges of that office. "And none of the duties," Clyde added.

To take proper note of Clyde's retirement as editor, we invited former CBC presidents to offer comments for this article. They follow (including joint comments from John and Paula Wright):

☛ Any volunteer "position" always entails much more effort than appears on the surface, so we will never know the trials and tribulations that Clyde Smith had over the years in publishing the *CBC Newsletter*. One thing stands out in my mind is that Clyde knows how to write grammatically and how to spell, contrary to so much "ungrammar," to coin a word, and misspelling that you see and hear these days. Clyde's writings were fine examples of what grammar and spelling should be. More power to him! — John Watson (CBC president, 1985-87)

☛ While I was president of CBC the board was more busy than we would have liked. In addition to our normal duties we were very involved in reconstituting the North Carolina and South Carolina Records Committees, and we were beginning to deal with the issue of what to do with the Tryon property. It was a great relief and source of strength for us that we never had to give any thought to the newsletter. Clyde was absolutely reliable, and always produced a professional quality product on time. We had the luxury of taking him for granted, and that's about the highest tribute you can pay to anyone doing a service for the club. — Robin Carter (CBC president, 1989-91)

☛ We became aware of Clyde's great help to Executive Committee members and to all of the members of the Carolina Bird Club when John was elected ENC Member-at-Large in 1989 and was assigned to plan meetings. The information announcing the meetings

Thank You CBC

Laura and I deeply appreciate the kindness of the Executive Committee and the membership of the Carolina Bird Club in marking my retirement as editor of the *CBC Newsletter* at the spring meeting in Blowing Rock.

The presentation of the plaque, the beautifully framed watercolor of a Yellow-breasted Chat and the standing ovation were moving beyond words.

It has been a privilege to serve you as editor and I hope that my successor, Judy Walker, will have as much fun as I have over these 22 years.

Clyde Smith

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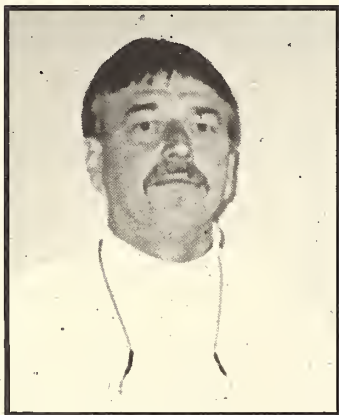
New CBC Board Members



Dwayne Martin
NC Member-at-Large



Donna Bailey
SC Vice President



Gary Sowell
SC Member-at-Large

Welcome

The Hills Were Alive

The spring 2000 meeting at Blowing Rock may best be recalled by two words: "At last!"

After the meteorological misfortunes that plagued meetings in Beaufort and Charleston, SC, at last we had good weather. Weather-depleted turnouts at those two meetings, but at last we had good attendance. In fact, about 193 folks registered for the Blowing Rock meeting.

They saw good birds for the most part, enjoyed mild, sunny weather, and heard programs that in turn were provocative and informative.

The birding ranged over the mountains and valleys around Blowing Rock. The sheer abundance of on-territory Canada and Black-throated Blue warblers at Trout Lake in Moses Cone Park wowed many. The thrill of a successful chase for a Golden-wing Warbler pleased others. And a King Rail appeared at Valle Crucis Community Park three days in a row, providing a first-observation in Watauga County.

Other notable observations included Swainson's and Cerulean warblers, Warbling Vireo, Vesper Sparrow, Baltimore and Orchard orioles, and Least and Willow flycatchers. About 145 species of birds were observed in the course of the meeting.

At Friday night's program, Professor Matthew Rowe from Appalachian State University told us why we should care about the global extinction crisis. The numbers of threatened birds and other creatures sounded grim, and Rowe called us to work as citizen conservationists to combat the trends.

Saturday night, Marcus Simpson previewed his next book. Author of the well-regarded *Birds of the Blue Ridge Mountains*, Simpson is now researching the work of early naturalists in the Southern Appalachians. He discovered that birds received little attention until the late 19th century, and lamented the loss of specimens and data of some ornithologists.

At the business meeting prior to Saturday night's program, the membership elected officers. Returning to office for one-year terms are President Len Pardue, Secretary Kathleen O'Grady, and Treasurer Patricia Earnhardt Tyndall. Elected to a three-year term was S.C. Vice President Donna Bailey. Elected to two-year terms were S.C. member-at-large Gary Sowell and N.C. members-at-large Susan Campbell and Dwayne Martin.

Congratulations are due to WNC Vice President Charlotte Goedsche and her team of meeting organizers, including Curtis Smalling and Lori and Dwayne Martin, for an outstanding schedule of field trips and for well-organized and entertaining meetings.

The Executive Committee of the Carolina Bird Club, during its Saturday night meeting, appointed Judy Walker of Charlotte as editor of *The CBC Newsletter*. Judy is well known to many in CBC. She served on the Executive Committee from 1993-1997 as a member-at-large for western North Carolina, and organized meetings in Elkin and Charlotte. She also served on the nominating committee this year and served as editor of a new CBC membership directory, to be produced later this year.

She's active with the Carolina Raptor Center and the Charlotte chapter of National Audubon. She works as a librarian at UNC Charlotte, and she's an active birder.

Judy writes well and possesses a high level of computer skills, an essential talent in this day of digital communication. There's no doubt she will edit a newsletter that is informative, accurate and enjoyable and that reaches members in a timely fashion.

— Len Pardue, CBC President

End of an Era...

appeared in the CBC Newsletter in a timely fashion because Clyde would send the friendliest, kindest reminders to the meeting planners either by mail and/or telephone. We knew (as school teachers do!) that the lesson-plans — we mean articles — had to be in before the deadline so that Clyde could get the newsletters out on time. He was just too nice an editor and friend to disappoint by us not doing our jobs. Over the past decade both of us came to realize that Clyde's many contributions to the CBC went far beyond his editorial duties. He served as an invaluable source of knowledge for club presidents and other executive committee members who did not have the background which Clyde had gained from years of serving on the committee.

We sought his opinions on numerous issues and were impressed by his thoughtful, fair consideration of issues. Although he had for some time been the most senior member of the Executive Committee, he did not try to push any particular point of view, but would provide the essential background information during discussions. He never seemed to mind that he had to repeatedly inform neophytes of previous decisions and past issues of the Executive Committee. His helpfulness as unofficial parliamentarian when the club's by-laws were being discussed or interpreted was also valuable. We greatly appreciate all that he has done for the Carolina Bird Club. — John Wright (CBC President 1991-93) and Paula Wright (ENC Member-at-Large 1993-97)



*Len Pardue presenting Claude Smith
with a commemorative plaque.*

☼ Before I became CBC president, Clyde had a serious fatherly little talk with me about the amount of commitment required for the job. I'm pretty much a recreational birder, and there's nothing "recreational" about serving as president. At my very first board meeting, Herb Hendrickson announced that he was retiring as editor of the CHAT. Okay, no reason to panic yet.

As we continued with introductions around the table, we came to Clyde. "I'm Clyde Smith," he said, "and I'm retiring as Newsletter editor." Okay, now panic!

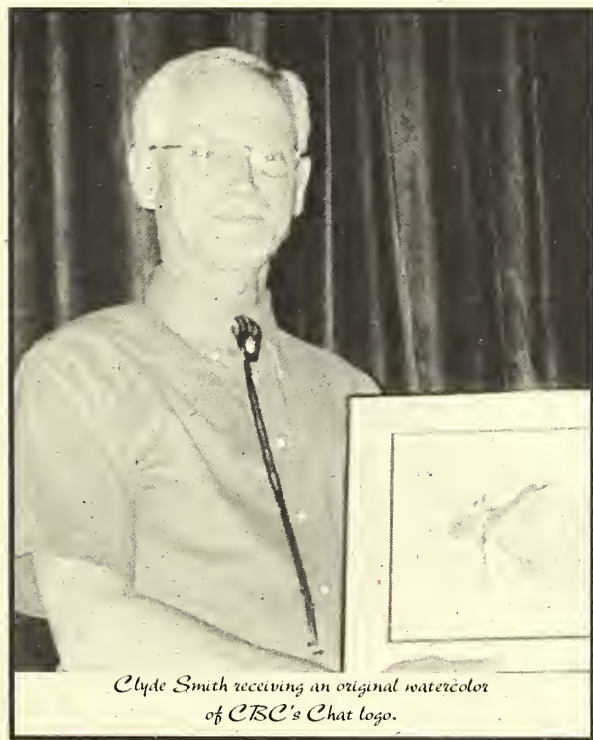
Stunned silence followed. Then Clyde burst out with a roar of laughter. "Just kidding, just kidding!"

Whew, that's about as close to a heart attack as I care to be. I muddled through my two-year stint, always enjoying Clyde's slightly odd sense of humor and his full support. Bless his heart, he waited until Len's watch to really quit. Thanks, Clyde. — Teddy Shuler (CBC President, 1995-97)

☼ Clyde tirelessly handled all the challenges of the job with great enthusiasm, dependability, fairness, objectivity, tact, civility, skill, dedication, and aplomb and, all the while, has managed to maintain a terrific sense of humor. In addition, his unassuming style has been the perfect fit for an organization with an abundance of differing personalities.

Yet, in my 4 years on the CBC Board of Directors, including my 2 years as president, the role that I came to depend on and appreciate most from Clyde was that of advisor. Whether it was a needed interpretation of the CBC by-laws, an historical perspective, the appropriate use of Roberts Rules of Order, or a clarification of decisions by previous CBC boards, Clyde was always there when you needed him most. In many respects, he has been the moral conscience of the Carolina Bird Club. It is for these things that I owe my greatest thanks to Clyde.

We will all miss Clyde in the role of newsletter editor, but look forward to spending more time with him in his new role of "care-free" birder and CBC member. Clyde, I thank and salute you. — Bert Fisher (CBC President 1997-99)



*Clyde Smith receiving an original watercolor
of CBC's Chat logo.*

Fall Meeting:

A Return to

Historic Coastal Fort Caswell



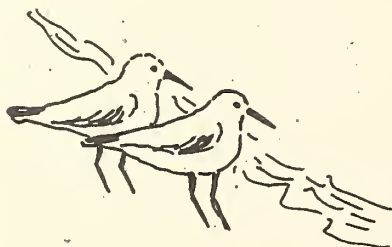
When the CBC last met at Fort Caswell in the Fall of 1997 the rare migrant, Connecticut Warbler, was spotted. On September 29, 30, and October 1, 2000 we are hopeful for similar productive birding on the grounds of the North Carolina Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell, located on the eastern tip of Oak Island in Brunswick County near Southport. Ft. Caswell was built 1827 - 38, and part of the original fort remains. Most of the current buildings date from 1895 to 1902 when it was still used as a fort for coastal defense. The N. C. Baptist State Convention purchased the 248 acres in 1949, added a few buildings, and renovated the old ones over the next forty years. It is now a very attractive and peaceful campus at the mouth of the Cape Fear River.

We will have field trips to areas in Brunswick County: Green Swamp; Sunset, Holden and Long Beaches; Ocean Isle sewage treatment plant; Brunswick Town Historical Site; and possibly Orton Plantation and Bald Head Island. Field trips in New Hanover County that have proven popular at past CBC meetings will also be included: Eagle Island, Greenfield Gardens, Carolina Beach State Park, and Ft. Fisher. We will be concentrating our efforts on migrating warblers and shorebirds. Those who enjoy butterflying will also have excellent opportunities at the Green Swamp and Greenfield Gardens.

Although the meeting doesn't officially start until Friday afternoon, registration packets with birding-on-your-own maps will be available Thursday afternoon and evening. There will be organized field trips on Friday as well as Saturday. Sunday birding will be determined by the week-end's hot bird finds.

Registration will be held at Ginkgo Cottage, and the Friday and Saturday evening programs will be held at the Chapel. Friday evening's speaker will be John Wright, who will describe the work which he and his wife Paula do with the large Henslow's Sparrow populations at the Voice of America sites in Pitt and Beaufort counties, North Carolina. Part of this work is annual population monitoring, which is now in its seventh year. Part is a collaborative effort to band Henslow's Sparrows on the sites; an effort now in its second year.

On Saturday evening, Dr. Steve Emslie of the University of North Carolina - Wilmington will describe the research which he and his graduate students are doing with nesting Royal Terns and gulls in coastal North Carolina.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Assembly room rate for our meeting is \$24.50 per night based on double occupancy. We will be housed at Fort Caswell in various separate cottages, "hotels", and a motel. The meeting planners will assign rooms as they receive registration forms. Registrants who require wheelchair accessibility are encouraged to send a note to that effect with the completed registration form.

Certain meals will be available to our group: Thursday, Friday and Saturday Suppers (\$6.50 per meal) and Sunday Breakfast (\$5.00). These meals must be ordered at the time that the registration form is completed and sent to CBC. Please note that alcohol is not allowed on the Assembly grounds.

Early preregistration for this meeting and the rooms is essential. Since the club will be responsible for room assignments and room key distribution. Registration in June or July is requested if at all possible. Reservations and **full payment must be received at CBC Headquarters no later than August 29.** Anyone canceling a room reservation will be reimbursed if that room is re-rented. (At the 1997 meeting last-minute registrants did take the few rooms made available by unexpected cancellations.)

For those who do not wish to stay at the Assembly, there are several motels on Oak Island: Port Motel, 4821 Long Beach Rd., Southport, 910-457-4800; South Winds Motel, 700 Ocean Dr., Yaupon Beach, 910-278-5442; Captains Cove Motel, 604 Ocean Dr., Yaupon Beach, 910-278-6114; Island Resort, 500 Ocean Dr., Yaupon Beach, 278-5644. The meeting registration fee for those not staying at the Assembly will include the user fee charged to all non-Baptist groups.

Detailed travel directions and other information will be included in the July/August Newsletter. However, **PLEASE DO NOT WAIT** to register for the meeting if you plan to stay at the Assembly. Call John or Paula Wright at 252-756-5139 before 8:00 p.m. for further information.

Registration Form
CBC Fall Meeting, Sept. 29 - Oct. 1, 2000

Name(s) _____
(list each name for name tag)

Address _____ City: _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Telephone (____) _____ (day) (____) _____ (evening) e-mail _____

☐ I will NOT be staying overnight at the NC Baptist Assembly.

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____ for _____ member registrations at \$20 each and _____ nonmember registrations at \$30 each. Registration at the meeting for those not staying at the Assembly is \$30 for members & nonmembers.

☐ I WILL be staying overnight at the NC Baptist Assembly.

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____ for _____ member registrations at \$10 each, _____ nonmember registrations at \$20 each and \$24.50 per person per room per night room fee (DOUBLE OCCUPANCY ONLY).

I will arrive on ☐ Thursday, ☐ Friday, ☐ Saturday.

Room fees include the Assembly user fee charged to all non-Baptist groups. **Note:** Registration for accommodations at the Assembly can be made only in advance and not at the meeting. The names of those wishing to be assigned to the same room should appear on the same registration form. Those wishing to be assigned to the same cottage should send their registration forms together.

☐ Enclosed is a check for the following meals:

Thursday Supper (\$6.50) _____ Friday Supper (\$6.50) _____ Saturday Supper (\$6.50) _____ Sunday Breakfast (\$5.00)

Note any special requests concerning accommodations: _____



Backyard Birding

by Frances J. Nelson, May 9, 2000

Backyard Birding will be short this time because I have heard from no one and because I have been too busy to do much birding myself. I've even neglected to write down the birds CJ has seen and when. I know that he heard the pitichuck of a summer tanager sometime in April and then saw the male two days later. He has also heard a prairie warbler but has not seen that yet.

One day last week, he saw a pair of wood ducks in the empty lot next to ours. The back half of the lot had many trees and the wood ducks were checking out a large dead one. I guess at first they thought the little creek might be suitable for raising their young, but they must have realized the creek is not a permanent one; it only flows when we've had lots of rain.

Notice, too, the use of 'had' as in the lot had trees. No more. A bull-

dozer came in and wiped out every single tree. I'm not sure why the driver had to knock down every tree, but he did. I wondered how many bird nests he destroyed, but evidently that doesn't matter either.

The good news is that we had made an offer on another house the evening before the trees fell. Our new place has a yard full of trees and should be an excellent place for birding.

We were typically without goldfinches for a couple of weeks in late March/early April. Then the first yellow one showed up at our feeder April 7, and the others arrived April 13, so now we have a yard full of goldfinches. I talked with Claudia Pelczar, who lives a couple of miles from us, and she said their yard was full April 11. Another friend in Chapel Hill also had a bunch by April 11. I guess we were just a few days behind. Maybe

it's because these folks live in less populated areas than we do.

On April 22 (Easter week-end), we were visiting my parents in Washington, NC, and we saw a male indigo bunting on the feeder. We hadn't seen the iridescent blue at our house, but the next week, CJ heard one. We have had another blue bird and that's the blue grosbeak. We had seen the male at the feeder a few times, but on May 5, both the male and female were chomping away on sunflower seeds. We figure they must be nesting close by. Evidently, they were not in the lot next door.

We also have a new black and white wobbler. Niki, our seventeen-and-a-half-year-old, died in January, and now we have Maggie, a five-year-old rescue dog, who may turn out to be a good birder, too. She likes her walks, and Sunday, as we were walk-

Continued on page 7

A Call for Action

A Call for Help

At the spring meeting in Blowing Rock, Dr. Matthew Rowe from Appalachian State University provided us with some sobering information on the plight of our avian friends. Declines are continuing for many of neotropical migrants due to habitat loss and human induced hazards like cars, cats and chemicals. Dr. Rowe was very eloquent as to why we should be concerned. What he didn't discuss was what we could do about it. He did urge us to become citizen conservationists, but how do we do that?

The MAPS program is one way you can get out in the field and help make a difference. Created in 1989 to provide critical conservation and management information for populations of landbirds breeding within the United States and Canada, the MAPS Program utilizes constant-effort mist netting and banding of birds at a continent-wide network of monitoring stations staffed by both professional biologists and trained volunteers. Since its first season, MAPS has grown from 17 to over

500 stations and received the support and endorsement of many federal agencies and conservation groups, including the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Biological Resources Division of the USGS, the USDA Forest Service, the Department of Defense, the National Audubon Society, and the international, cooperative Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Initiative, "Partners in Flight." MAPS provides unique opportunities for non-professionals to participate in meaningful conservation research, learn about issues of declining biodiversity, and learn more about the birds themselves.

Pee Dee NWR will be running a MAPS banding station this season again at the refuge. The station was started by Peter Range, five years ago. This is a critical year for data. Pee Dee NWR is not one of the glamour refuges like Pea Island or Alligator River. However, it is a very important link in the Piedmont migration route. Dan Fisk and Laura Fogo are relatively new to the refuge. They have discovered there has been very little data collected on the bird populations on the refuge. That is why the MAPS program data is

so important. Volunteers are needed to help, but please let Laura Fogo know in advance the day you plan to help.

They also have plans to conduct International Shorebird Surveys the same days as the banding and would like to continue the point counts that Peter Range began several years ago. They really need some dedicated birders to help them out. Just as an enticement Peter Range had a singing Swainson's warbler two years ago on one of his point counts in June. Who knows what might be lurking in this little explored area. And this is a great way to contribute to international efforts to improve bird conservation. Please pass this along to others you feel would be interested in helping out. Here are the tentative dates:

May 9	May 19	May 30
June 9	June 19	June 29
July 10	July 19	July 28
August 7		

Pee Dee NWR sits in the heart of the Carolina Piedmont, no more than two hours from the largest metropolitan areas in the Carolinas. If you are interested Laura Fogo can be reached at work at (704) 694-4424.

Membership Application and Order Form

Please print clearly

Name: _____

[List individual member first then any associate members]

Address: _____

City: _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Telephone No.: () _____ () _____ Email: _____

Home

Business

☐ New ☐ Renewal

☐ Individual & non-profits [\$20]

☐ Associate (w/individual member) [\$5]

☐ Student [\$15]

☐ Sustaining & Business [\$25]

☐ Patron [\$50 up]

☐ Life (4 installments of \$100) [\$400]

Send Materials Indicated Below

CBC Cloth arm patch \$2.00 _____

CBC Decals (vinyl stick-on)

\$2.00 ea. _____ In quantity 1.75 _____

Checklists 10/\$1.75 _____

25/\$5.00 _____ 50/\$9.00 _____

75/\$12.75 _____ 100/\$16.00 _____

Make check payable to Carolina Bird Club, Inc. and mail to 11 W. Jones St. Raleigh, NC 27601-1029

Backyard Birding...

ing around the neighborhood, I heard the high pitched cries of baby birds, but I never could locate them or the mother. Maggie waited patiently as I looked for the birds. Another day, I saw a red-tailed hawk land in a tree and watch us. I hope a nest was near and that he wasn't thinking Maggie might make a good meal. But, again, Maggie let me watch the hawk as long as I wanted to and she never made a sound.

One more piece of information that isn't really backyard stuff, but on my way from Creedmoor to Durham every day, I pass an osprey nest on Falls Lake. The nest is not too far from I-85, so if you happen to be in that area, be sure to look. Usually, one of the birds is sitting on the nest. I watched them build it and then I worried about it during a heavy rain and wind storm because the nest did not look very sturdy. It looks a little more disheveled than it did originally, but it stayed where it was.

That's it for backyard birding. Send information about your back yard to Frances J. Nelson, 2061 Ferbow Street, Creedmoor, NC 27522; (919) 528-1156

Happy Birding!

ACE Basin Weekend Excursion

WHERE: Southern South Carolina. September 22-24, 2000.

LEADERS: Best Guess Birding Co. (Bob Wood and Lex Glover)

A high 2-day total will be our goal as we spend the weekend birding four of the best areas southern South Carolina has to offer: Savannah National Wildlife Refuge, ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge (near Edisto Island), Donnelly Wildlife Management Area, and Bear Island Wildlife Management Area. We'll spend Friday night in Hardeeville and then depart our motel early Saturday morning to bird all day. We'll stay in Walterboro Saturday night and bird until we drop (or otherwise need to go home) on Sunday afternoon. Look for more details in the next newsletter.

LIMIT: 20 participants.

COST: \$25

CONTACT:

Bob Wood, Best Guess Birding Co., 2421 Owl Circle, West Columbia, SC 29169
H: (803) 791-3833; W: (803) 771-7900; bobwood@ix.netcom.com

ACE BASIN FIELD TRIP REGISTRATION SEPTEMBER 22, 2000

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **ST:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

TELEPHONE: () _____ (DAY) () _____ (EVENING)

EMAIL: _____

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____ for _____ persons to participate in the Ace Basin Field Trip. I have called the appropriate trip leader to ensure that space is available. Make checks payable to **Carolina Bird Club, Inc** Mail to PO Box 29555, Raleigh, NC 27626-0555

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16 The Circle, Asheville, NC 28801
828-254-7618; eljeep@mindspring.com

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Tullie Johnson

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Members are encouraged to submit items of interest to CBC Newsletter, Judy Walker,

7639 Farm Gate Dr.,
Charlotte, NC 28215,

jwalker@email.uncc.edu

Submission deadline is the 10th of January, March, May, July, September, and November.

Submit membership applications and change of address to:

CBC Headquarters Secretary

11 W. Jones St.
Raleigh, NC 28601-1029

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Ann Marie Arendes
Asheville, NC

Wendy, George & Rob Painter
Chapel Hill, NC

Shelby & James Teague
Hickory, NC

Connie Bauer
Newton, NC

Genevieve & Bill Phillips
Lenoir, NC

Ginny Kloefer
Greenville, NC

Helen C. Briggs
Hickory, NC

Baughn & Beth Morrison
Todd, NC

Robert & Agnes Busing
Clinton Corners, NY

Deceased
Royce R. Weatherly
Winston-Salem, NC

Eunice & Bill Nichols
Arden, NC

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4/27-29/01